

## **MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION**

### **March 2, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Place: MDOT 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Professional Development Classroom

Meeting was called to order at 1:42 pm by Chairman George Phillips.

#### **Commission Members Present:**

MS Department of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Derrick Layton (for Tom Lariviere)
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Tommy Moffett
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Clovis Reed
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchliter
MS Department of Public Health	Brian Amy
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Emergency Management Agency	Tom McAllister
MS Highway Patrol	Michael Berthay
MS Homeland Security	Ed Worthington
MS Municipal League	Gene McGee
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
SafeCity Initiative	Mark McCreery

#### **Advisory Members Present:**

Representative Tyrone Ellis

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm. Chairman Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Phillips asked Ed Worthington to introduce the guest speaker from the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Worthington stated that the Integrating Needs Committee felt it was a good idea to give an overview of interoperability and efforts being undertaken at the federal level. Mr. Worthington introduced Dr. David Boyd, Deputy Director, Systems Engineering & Development Director, Office for Interoperability and Compatibility Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Boyd introduced Steve Precker, Project Manager for G & H International Services, Inc., and then presented an interoperability overview which included SAFECOM requirements for obtaining federal grants. After conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Phillips asked if anyone had questions for Dr. Boyd.

Representative Tyrone Ellis requested a copy of the presentation and indicated that he had a few questions. Representative Ellis asked what the turnaround time was for obtaining federal grants. Dr. Boyd explained that his office is not responsible for managing grants. Grants are

managed by the Office of Grants and Training (OGT). Dr. Boyd stated that OGT was considering ways to accelerate grants and was also analyzing methods for tying grants to requirements for achieving interoperability. Dr. Boyd also stated that requirements should be in place by 2007 requiring states to have an FCC approved statewide interoperability plan in place prior to receiving grants.

Representative Ellis then asked if there was a state where Dr. Boyd's office has assisted in creating a statewide interoperability plan. Dr. Boyd indicated that they had done this in Virginia, they were wrapping up a project in Nevada, and they were one-half of the way through with performing this task in Kentucky.

Commissioner Phillips asked if a state law would suffice for such a plan. Dr. Boyd responded that it probably would not due to the level of detail required in the plan.

Chairman Phillips asked for a report from the Rules Committee. Joel Yelverton had no report because he had not received any requests.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular Committee. He stated that ITS is working on the cellular RFP and anticipates completion towards the end of the month. Willie Huff asked what impact the pending bill for management of fleet vehicles and cell phones would have on this RFP if the bill passes. David Litchliter responded that it may affect the approach for handling acquisition and establishment of a statewide cellular contract. Commissioner Phillips indicated that careful examination was needed on this pending bill.

Mr. Worthington reported for the Integrating Needs Committee. He stated that Dr. Boyd's presentation was his report.

Chris Epps reported for the RFP Committee. He thanked those involved in the RFP development process. Commissioner Epps stated that the RFP Committee met on February 14, 2006 and each member received a copy of the RFP. RFP comments were due on February 21, 2006. The RFP Committee met on February 22, 2006 to discuss RFP feedback which was incorporated into the RFP. Buford Goff and Associates (BGA) made presentations for both meetings. A motion was made to recommend the RFP to the WCC, and it was approved with none opposed.

Commissioner Epps then asked BGA to present an overview of RFP modifications. Upon conclusion of BGA's overview, Commissioner Epps made a motion to adopt RFP 3429, Tommy Moffett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed.

Commissioner Phillips also expressed appreciation for the hard work done by the RFP Committee and the technical persons involved in providing input into the RFP and indicated that the Commission should be ready to begin the next phase in this process.

Commissioner Phillips welcomed Colonel Mike Berthay as the new Chief of Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Commissioner Phillips asked if there was other business to discuss. Mr. Litchliter indicated that he had a couple of items to discuss with the Commission. He wanted to let vendors know that RFP 3429 would be posted to the ITS web site ([www.its.state.ms.us](http://www.its.state.ms.us)) and available for download later in the afternoon. He also explained that some RFP exhibits contain material very confidential in nature and that vendors would have to sign a non-disclosure agreement to

obtain copies of these exhibits. Mr. Litchliter indicated that these agreements and exhibits could be obtained by contacting Sheila Kearney at ITS.

Mr. Litchliter stated that the Commission should consider obtaining the services of a qualified Integrator to facilitate implementation of a statewide interoperability plan and to address governance issues associated with implementation of a wireless communications system. Mr. Litchliter indicated that he was referring to some type of convenience contract with an Integrator based on a competitive procurement for such services. He further stated that he did not know how this would be funded. Mr. Litchliter stressed the urgency for getting a plan in place for the Coast that would involve utilizing equipment that the State currently has available and analyzing what purchases may be necessary since a statewide system will not be in place prior to the next hurricane season.

Commissioner Phillips announced the formation of a new committee (the Interoperability Committee) and appointed the following as members to the committee: Mr. Willie Huff (chairman), Major Alan Ladd, Chief Tom Lariviere, Colonel Mike Berthay, and Chief Tommy Moffett. Commissioner Phillips stated that Bill Buffington had been hired by Public Safety to assist with wireless communications issues and that MDOT also had staff committed to this endeavor. Commissioner Phillips instructed the new committee to use those other resources as necessary to begin addressing interoperability on the Coast and to report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Tom McAllister suggested that the scope be expanded to include the counties north of the Coast. Commissioner Phillips stated that although he agreed with the idea, funds were not available to expand the scope. Commissioner Phillips indicated that \$250,000 to \$300,000 was needed to address the interoperable needs of the three Coastal counties. Commissioner Phillips stated to the vendors in the room that he anticipates having the funding challenges solved by the time the radio RFP is awarded. He then stated that he trusted that Mr. Huff and the committee would move quickly on this task and encouraged them to utilize existing resources as needed (Dan Lynn, Donald Loper, MDOT resources, Commission members, etc.)

Commissioner Phillips asked Mr. Litchliter to continue discussion of other business. Mr. Litchliter stated that ITS would soon be sending out notification via email to the commission members and advisory members of the Vendor Conference for RFP 3429. He explained that verbal and written questions will be taken in the conference.

Commissioner Phillips called attention to the newspaper article about the Ridgeland project and reminded Commission members that this project came through the WCC. He further reminded members that they should assume the role of reminding locals that wireless projects must come before the WCC for approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Auditorium on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the MDOT Building.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.